



www.conservancies.org
www.nacsa.org.za
www.nacsa.co.za

GC&SA

Ear to the Ground

NUMBER 32

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2011

NACSSA AGM and General Meeting



Delegates and Speakers at the NACSSA AGM and General Meeting

We need to do **CPR**
on our Planet
**CONSERVATION
PROTECTION
and
RESTORATION**
David Brower

CONTENTS

- GC&SA Brings the Aardvark home 2
- Another Species Extinct 2
- Seasons Greetings 2
- Snippets from around the Province 3
- WESSA 85th Birthday and Art Auction 3
- Events and Notices 4
- NACSSA AGM and General Meeting continued 4
- GC&SA Library 4
- Interesting Web Sites and Acronyms 5

Friday 11th November we arrived at Graceland's in North West Province settled in. The first session started at 12h30 John Wesson Chairman of NACSSA opened and welcomed all he then did an introduction to the Peglerae Conservancy and the Magaliesberg. Followed by the Provincial Association presentations: Gauteng Conservancy and Stewardship Association, North West Conservancy Association, KwaZulu Natal Conservancy Association and the Ethekewini Urban Conservancies. Andrew Barker gave a presentation on the newly formed Klipriviersberg Sustainability Association

Saturday morning we got off to an early start, held the NACSSA AGM (minutes available) and

after tea our Guest speakers impressed us with great presentations **Olof Bekker** on Alternative Energy, **Mercia Komen** who represents NACSSA at the Environmental Impact Assessment & Management Strategy, her presentation Environmental Impact Assessment and Management was most useful. She also gave an overview of the work done in the Francolin Conservancy, **Ernest Seamark** Presentation on Bats and Conservancies **Lyne Clark** gave an introduction to the Rhenosterspruit Nature Conservancy.

All the above presentations are available on request from the office. The Bat Presentation and

other Bat information is available on CD *Thank you Ernest*

At 16h00 we were taken to the top of the Magaliesberg overlooking the Hatebeestport Dam and also saw the Peglerae in its natural habitat

After dinner the Awards were handed out. The Gold Aardvark Award went to the GC&SA, North West Conservancy Association received the Silver Award, KwazuluNatal Conservancy Association received the Bronze Award. Hugh Roberts and Joan du Toit received a Chairman's award. See page 3

Sunday Morning → Continued on page 4



Ian Ashmole thanking Olof Bekker for his presentation on Alternative Energy



Ivan Parkes thanking Mercia Komen for her presentation on EIA Legislation "An Update"



Malcolm Stainbank thanking Ernest Seamark for his Presentation on Bats and Conservancies

Gauteng brings the Aardvark Home



Joan du Toit received the award on behalf of the GC&SA from John Wesson

The Gauteng Conservancy and Stewardship Association has once again been chosen as the best performing province in South Africa. At the NACSSA AGM and general meeting, the GC&SA received the Gold Award, also received it in 2006, 2009 and the Silver Award in 2010.

Description of the award :
This kind of initiative has an important impact as an in-

centive to the provincial civil society groups facilitating and leveraging land owner investment into biodiversity conservation. Each and every Province has done outstanding work to promote community conservation in South Africa, leading to more focus on biodiversity. NACSSA Executive Committee decided that awards Gold Silver and Bronze for the best performing province

would give the provincial associations an incentive to carry on with their excellent work.



“two subspecies of rhino have been declared extinct”

Another Species Extinct

International Rhino Foundation

As you may have read in the news, two subspecies of rhino have been declared extinct in the past two weeks: the Vietnamese Javan rhino and the western black rhino, which was last found in Cameroon. Even though both of these announcements were, sadly, expected, this alarming news makes everything else we are doing to save the remaining rhinos on Earth all the more important.

In the wake of this news, many folks have sent inquiries as to whether we have lost these species (and our battles) altogether. Both the Javan and

black rhino species still exist – but we have lost a genetically distinct unit of each of them (a subspecies), which can never be replaced. For those of you who aren't familiar with taxonomy, a subspecies ranks immediately below a species. Subspecies designation is usually based on characteristics that result from geographic isolation; subspecies are genetically distinguishable from other populations of the same species but can interbreed successfully with them if/where their ranges overlap.

Black rhinos now number about 4,838, with the largest populations in South Africa, Namibia, Kenya and Zimbabwe. Over the past 3 years across southern Africa, rhinos have been particularly hard-hit by well-organized gangs of poachers. In South Africa alone, more than 370 rhinos have been poached this year

www.rhinos-irf.org



Seasons Greetings

Yes another year has passed, are the years getting shorter?

I would like to thank all the Conservancy members for their concern and vigilance shown towards saving our precious Biodiversity in Gauteng over the past year

This year we registered 5 new Conservancies

- **Sable Hills,**
- **Bronkhorstspuit-Wilge Rivier,**
- **Mushroom Farm,**
- **Elandsfontein Nature Conservancy**
- **Elandsfontein Midvaal**

I welcome our new members It is great to see that the Conservancy movement is still growing

Have a joy filled festive season

Yours in Conservation
Ivan

Snippets from around the province

Cullinan Conservancy



Joan du Toit chairperson of the Cullinan Conservancy received a NACSSA chairman's award for her dedication to environmental conservation

For more than 30 years. Her enthusiasm for Conservation has been infectious and her positive influence on others to share her viewpoint admirable. Joan is knowledgeable about environmental legislation and works closely with local authorities to watch over incidents that might be detrimental to conservation in her Conservancy and in the conservancies of Northern Gauteng for which she assumed responsibility over the last few years. We congratulate her on a great achievement.

ST Dunstan School Conservancy

Thanks to the Miss Earth SA visit last year, we were one of the first schools to be invited to join the launch of Generation Earth this year.

With this in mind it will be good to reciprocate and aid the Miss Earth SA organization reach a goal. They have a stationery drive to put packs to-

gether for underprivileged pupils and schools. As the year comes to an end and new stationery will be purchased for next year I would like to ask you to donate old or new stationery to help those pupils who don't necessarily have the luxury of rulers, coloured pencils, scissors, highlighters and erasers. Files, exam pads and notebooks are also very welcome.

There will be a box at the college or you can hand them to any GE council members who will pass them on. Collection at the College will start from approximately the 21st Nov so the Matrics can also contribute if they so desire.

The collection will carry over to the beginning of the first term of next year.

Any stationery that does not go towards the Miss Earth SA campaign will go to local needy pupils.

Oostelike Bevarias Ann Mearns

Ann is a trustee on the WWF Nedbank Green Trust

Ek het vandag 'n vergadering met Ebotse Golf estate gehad.

Die gebied van Cloverdene Conservancy het Ebotse ingesluit. Maar nou is die Ebotse gebied buite Cloverdene en die Raadslid van die Ebotse gebied het besluit hy wil nou die Ebotse Golf estate 'n nuwe conservancy verklaar. Die Nuwe gebied sluit nou die Victor Penning Voelreservaat in. Die raadslid is in beheer

van die Golf Estate hy is baie gewillig om groot veranderinge te bring. Korsman gaan van krag tot krag.

Ek het vanaand 'n vergadering met die twee skool Conservancies hulle gaan die gebied moontlik van BullfrogPan oorneem om te beheer. Niks het die afgelope tyd gebeur by B P. Die chairman gaan die gebied verlaat en ons beplan om te kyk wat kan gedoen word daar.

Northern Conservancies

On Saturday 5 November the North East Conservancies held a regional meeting to discuss their regional issues

Purpose of meeting: We know that the Conservancies in the area are unique, We would like to afford you the opportunity to meet with the members of your neighbouring conservancies, and to establish a sound networking framework.

Each member is important to the team as each one has some skills, knowledge and experience to share, by sharing and supporting each other we will be able to overcome the challenges we are facing.

Southern Conservancies

The Thorntree Country Fair was once again a great success. Environmental awareness is the main aim of this Fair. Drumblade Conservancy and Thorntree Conservancy showcased their Conservancies. Indigenous seeds and trees were on sale. A Snake awareness program was also present and very popular.

Franci Hosack working on getting the Henley Conservancy back on track.

WESSA 85th Birthday and Art Auction



Members of the Committee recently attended WESSA's 85th birthday celebration and art auction. The art on auction was of a very high quality, we were unfortunately unable to buy any.

After the auction we were invited to dinner where we were able to network with other conservation minded people



Events and Notices

“Please send us your Important dates for inclusion in this newsletter”

- International Year of Forests - 2011
- World Soil Day - 5 December 2011
- International Mountain Day- 11 December 2011
- Spider identification Course Cullinan Conservancy - 14 January 2012
- Snake identification Course Cullinan Conservancy - 18 February 2012
- World Earth Day - 16 April 2012
- World Earth Week - 16 to 22 April 2012
- Safe the Frogs Day - 28 April 2012
- World Environment Day -5 June 2012
- Your events and notices here:
- ?
- ?
- ?
- ?



For more information regarding Conservancy events e mail conservancies@conservancies.org

NACSSA AGM and General Meeting



→ Continued from page 1
Sunday morning John gave a presentation on Birds and Conservancies.

The group then went over the NACSSA Strategy Document facilitated by Andrew. Andrew Barker commented it was a good one with some interesting inputs and discussions.

Malcolm gave a summary of the proceedings, closed the meeting and thanked all participants

It was an extremely informative meeting not to be missed next year

GC&SA Library



The GCSA library has got over 800 environmental books and recently received 200 books on Southern African History. The Library contains full sets of Marloth's The Flora of Southern Africa, Natal plants circa 1899 and Trees of Southern Africa and many more. Many periodicals and newsletters dating from the 1950's

We have recently been offered the rest of the collection of Agricultural and Historical books all are extremely valuable. Unfortunately the owner of the books is unable to

donate any further books

We need to submit an offer on the rest of the books

We are looking at a figure of R10000.00

All donations will be welcome. We need to keep this valuable collection from being sold separately.

The GC&SA Library will be written in to a Trust to ensure that this Library is kept complete for future generations (see lists on www.conservancies.org)

Acronyms!! What do they mean?

NACSSA	National Association of Conservancies & Stewardships of SA
GC&SA	Gauteng Conservancy & Stewardship Association
WESSA	Wildlife and Environment Society South Africa
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
EWT	Endangered Wildlife Trust
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
GDARD	Gauteng Department of Agriculture, and Rural Development
DMR	Department of Minerals Resources
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DST	Department of Science and Technology
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
I&AP:	Interested and Affected Party
SLAPP	Strategic Litigation Against Public Participants
DFA	Development Facilitation Act
NEMA	National Environment Management Act

“Let us know if you find interesting web sites and acronyms not included on our list”

Interesting Web Sites

www.earth911.org
treesocietysa.org
www.read-the-truth.com
 Al Gore’s Theory on Global Warming
www.trees.co.za
 Food & Trees for Africa
www.climateark.org
 Climate Change and Global Warming
www.go-organic.co.za
www.mycarbondebt.com
www.treehugger.com
www.scienceinafrica.co.za
 Africa’s first on-line science magazine
www.greenbuilding.com
 Everything you want to know and more about green building

<http://environment.newscientist.com>
www.daff.gov.za
 Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries
www.environment.gov.za
 Department of Environmental Affairs
www.dmr.gov.za
 Department of Mineral Resources
www.dst.gov.za
 Department of Science and Technology
www.dwa.gov.za
 Department of Water Affairs
www.info.gov.za/aboutgovt/dept.htm



This is the Conservancies News Letter for and by the Conservancies

Please send us your news and notices of events for inclusion in “*Ear to the Ground*”. This e-newsletter goes to all the Gauteng conservancies and to a long list of “friends of conservancies” plus other interested people. The list grows by the day. If you would like to contact any of the conservancies or people mentioned in this “*Ear*”, let us know.

E- Mail
 conservancies@conservancies.org

Postal
 PO Box 1552
 Walkerville
 1876



Typical Gauteng Rural Conservancy